AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for computerized monitoring of dispensation of pharmaceuticals to inmates and dispensation of prescribed medication to prisoners within ~~inmates in~~ correctional facilities defining inmates in conjunction with computerized records including an electronic medical record containing information about a specific inmate to receive prescribed medication and the inmate's medical history, the method comprising the steps of:

reviewing the inmate's electronic medical record to verify that the prescribed medication is suitable for the inmate responsive to electronic medical record data contained therein, the electronic medical record stored in computer memory of a first computer defining a computerized records computer configured to manipulate and store the computerized records including the electronic medical record;

authorizing release of the inmate's prescribed medication by a pharmacist located at a central pharmacy responsive to the prescribed medication being verified as suitable for the inmate;

labeling a unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication for dispensing to the inmate responsive to the authorization;

delivering the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication to a correctional facility unit that houses the inmate, the correctional facility unit located remote from the central pharmacy;

transferring the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication within the correctional facility unit to administer the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate;

. performing an automated verification that the inmate is the inmate who has been prescribed the inmate's prescribed medication by a second computer defining a correctional facility unit computer prior to forming a record of dispensing the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate responsive to the inmate swiping an identification card through a card swiper, the correctional facility unit computer configured to store computerized dispensation, received verification, and administration verification records;

dispensing the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate;

-2-

forming a record of dispensing the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate in computer memory of ~~a second computer defining a~~ the correctional facility unit computer ~~configured to store computerized dispensation, received verification, and administration verification records~~ responsive to the dispensing of the prescribed medication to the inmate, the correctional facility unit computer positioned in communication with the computerized records computer to update the inmate's electronic medical record;

verifying receipt by the inmate of the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication;

forming a receipt verification record in the computer memory of the correctional facility unit computer indicating verification that the inmate received the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to the verification of receipt by the inmate;

performing an actual physical verification verifying whether or not the inmate consumed the inmate's prescribed medication;

performing one of the following administration verification steps:

forming an administration verification record in the computer memory of the correctional facility unit computer indicating an actual physical verification that the inmate consumed the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to the verification of consumption by the inmate, and

forming the administration verification record in the computer memory of the correctional facility unit computer indicating that the inmate did not consume the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication when so occurring; ~~and~~

updating the inmate's electronic medical record by the computerized records computer responsive to receiving the administration verification record from the correctional facility unit computer:

receiving a data entry from a correctional facility pill window technician for the respective correctional facility unit indicating an allergic reaction to the inmate's prescribed medication; and

updating the inmate's electronic medical record over a communications network responsive to the step of receiving the data entry indicating an allergic reaction to the inmate's prescribed medication.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1,

wherein the inmate's electronic medical record includes laboratory results, medical checkup data, and problems associated with the inmate; and

wherein the step of reviewing the inmate's electronic medical record includes performing the step of automatically reviewing the electronic medical record for drug-drug interactions, duplicate therapies, and allergies by a third computer defining a pharmacy computer responsive to entry of a prescription for the inmate in the computer memory of one or more of the following: the computerized records computer and the pharmacy computer.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of reviewing the inmate's electronic medical record further includes performing the step of manually reviewing a substantial portion of the inmate's electronic medical record to include the laboratory results, medical checkup data, and problems associated with the inmate contained within the electronic medical record prior to the pharmacist authorizing release of the prescribed medication to thereby reduce risk of assignment of an inappropriate medication.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of performing an automated comparison of the inmate's prescribed medication with a drug formulary of approved medication approved by the specific correctional facility unit housing the inmate responsive to computer system entry of a prescription into the computer memory of one or more of the following: the computerized records computer and the pharmacy computer.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of preventing a potential disruption of medication administration resulting from a breakdown in network communications between the computerized records computer and the correctional facility unit computer located remotely therefrom by caching on the correctional facility unit computer at least portions of each electronic medical record for each inmate scheduled to receive prescribed medicines.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

adding inmate enrollment data records to the inmate's electronic medical record when information related to a new inmate is not already present, the enrollment data being uploaded from a correctional facility admissions computer located at the correctional facility unit to the inmate's electronic medical record over a communications network.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

sorting each of a plurality of unit packets for each separate one of a plurality of inmates into a shipment in accordance with a shipping schedule for delivery of the unit packets to the correctional facility unit after each of the plurality of unit packets of prescribed medication including the inmate's prescribed medication has been labeled and prepared for shipment.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8,

wherein the plurality of unit packets for each separate one of the plurality of inmates comprises a 30 day supply of unit packets for each of a plurality of different prescribed medications for each separate one of the plurality of inmates; and

wherein the method further comprises the step of performing an automated update of an inventory record of pharmaceuticals at the correctional facility unit in response to receiving the shipment, the shipment received from a facility affiliated with the central pharmacy.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

preventing a potential disruption of medication delivery resulting from a breakdown in network communications between the computerized records computer storing inmate electronic medical records and a remote pharmacy computer located remotely therefrom by caching on the remote pharmacy computer each electronic medical record for each inmate contained within each shipment scheduled to be shipped within a predefined time period prior to the step of reviewing the inmate's electronic medical record.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

preventing a potential disruption of medication delivery resulting from a breakdown in network communications between the computerized records computer storing inmate electronic

medical records and a remote pharmacy computer located remotely therefrom by caching data related to each label to be printed for each of a plurality of shipments to a corresponding plurality of correctional facilities scheduled to be shipped within a predefined time period prior to printing the respective label.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8,

wherein the plurality of unit packets for each separate one of the plurality of inmates comprises a 30 day supply of unit packets for a plurality of different prescribed medications for each separate one of the plurality of inmates; and

wherein the method further comprises performing the following steps responsive to the failure of an inmate to consume at least one unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication:

subsequently locating the at least one unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication,

returning the at least one unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication, when determined to be suitable for future use, to a central pharmacy for reclamation, and

adjusting the inventory of pharmaceuticals accordingly.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of:

performing an automated adjustment of an inventory record of pharmaceuticals for each inmate responsive to the step of delivering one or more unit packets of the inmate's prescribed medication to the correctional facility unit that houses the respective inmate.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

automatically refilling the prescribed medication for chronic conditions once the step of reviewing a computerized inmate correctional facility record and the step of reviewing the inmate's electronic medical record to verify that the prescribed medication is suitable for the inmate, has been performed for the inmate's prescribed medication.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

scheduling a time period that the correctional facility unit in which each inmate's prescribed medication of a plurality of inmates in the correctional facility unit is to be dispensed to the respective inmate;

caching electronic medical records for each inmate within the correctional facility unit scheduled to receive prescribed medication during the scheduled time period response to the step of scheduling; and

refusing to dispense prescribed medication to an inmate failing to match an identity of a scheduled inmate.

16. (Withdrawn) A method for computerized monitoring of dispensation of pharmaceuticals to inmates in correctional facilities in conjunction with computer records including an electronic medical record stored in a computerized records computer, the electronic medical record containing information about an inmate to receive prescribed medication and the inmate's medical history, the method comprising the steps of:

displaying on at least one computer display both a portion of the inmate's electronic medical record and a portion of the inmate's correctional facility record, the step performed by a pharmacy computer configured to manipulate and store the computer records including the electronic medical record, the electronic medical record including laboratory work results and medical checkup data;

reviewing both the portion of the inmate's electronic medical record and the portion of the inmate's correctional facility record by a pharmacist to verify that the prescribed medication is suitable for the inmate;

verifying suitability of the prescribed medication by the pharmacist responsive to the review of the inmate's electronic medical record;

authorizing release of the prescribed medication for the inmate by the pharmacist responsive to the prescribed medication being verified as suitable for the inmate, the authorization entered into the pharmacy computer to update the inmate's electronic medical record;

updating the inmate's electronic medical record responsive to entry of the authorization into the pharmacy computer; and

printing a label for the inmate's prescribed medication to place upon a unit packet of the prescribed medication for dispensing to the inmate, the step of printing performed by a printer positioned at a pharmacy technician workstation responsive to the authorization to release the prescribed medication.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of:

delivering a multi-day supply of unit packets for each one of a plurality of different prescribed medications for each separate one of a plurality of inmates to a correctional facility unit that houses the inmates from a facility associated with a central pharmacy, the correctional facility unit being located remote therefrom.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of:

performing an automated update of a correctional facility unit inventory record responsive to receipt of the unit packets by the correctional facility unit.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of:

sorting each unit packet of prescribed medication of a plurality of unit packets for each separate one of a plurality of inmates in a correctional facility unit in accordance with a shipment schedule for delivery to the correctional facility unit.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16,

wherein the inmate is housed in a specific correctional facility unit; and

wherein the step of reviewing a portion of the inmate's electronic medical record includes performing an automated comparison of the inmate's prescribed medication with a drug formulary of approved medication for the individual correctional facility unit housing the inmate responsive to entry of a prescription into the computer, the drug formulary stored in computer memory.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of:

preventing a potential disruption of medication administration resulting from a breakdown in network communications between the computerized records computer and a

correctional facility unit computer located remotely therefrom by caching on the correctional facility unit computer at least portions of each electronic medical record for each inmate scheduled to receive prescribed medicines

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

sorting each of a plurality of unit packets for each separate one of a plurality of inmates into a shipment in accordance with a shipping schedule for delivery of the unit packets to a correctional facility unit after each of the plurality of unit packets of prescribed medication including the inmate's prescribed medication has been labeled for shipment.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of:

preventing a potential disruption of medication delivery resulting from a breakdown in network communications between the pharmacy computer and the computerized records computer storing the electronic medical records and located remotely therefrom by caching each electronic medical record for each inmate contained within each shipment scheduled to be shipped within a predefined time period in memory of the pharmacy computer prior to the step of reviewing the inmate's electronic medical record.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the computer is a pharmacy computer, the method further comprising the step of:

preventing a potential disruption of medication delivery resulting from a breakdown in network communications between the pharmacy computer and the computerized records computer located remotely therefrom by caching data related to each label to be printed for each shipment scheduled to be shipped within a predefined time period in memory of the pharmacy computer prior to printing the label.

25. (Currently amended) A method for computerized monitoring of dispensation of prescribed medication to prisoners~~inmates~~ in correctional facilities defining inmates in conjunction with computerized records including an electronic medical record, the electronic medical record containing information about an inmate to receive prescribed medication and the inmate's medical history, the method comprising the steps of:

performing an automated verification that an inmate is the inmate who has been prescribed the inmate's prescribed medication by a correctional facility unit computer prior to forming a record of dispensing a unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate responsive to reading an identification card for the inmate performed with a card swiper;

dispensing a unit packet of prescribed medication to an inmate;

forming a record of dispensing the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate in a memory of a computer configured to manipulate and store dispensation, receipt verification, and administration verification records, the dispensation record formed responsive to the dispensing of the unit packet to the inmate;

verifying receipt by the inmate of the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication;

forming a receipt verification record in the memory of the computer indicating verification that the inmate received the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to verifying receipt by the inmate;

performing one of the following administration verification steps:

forming an administration verification record in the memory of the computer indicating an actual physical verification by a human observer that the inmate consumed the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to verifying consumption by the inmate, and

forming the administration verification record in the memory of the computer indicating that the inmate did not consume the unit packet of prescribed medication when so occurring; and

providing a verification report responsive to the administration verification record to evidence that the respective correctional facility unit housing the inmate at least attempted to provide medical services for the inmate;

receiving a data entry from a correctional facility pill window technician for the correctional facility unit indicating an allergic reaction to the inmate's prescribed medication; and

updating the inmate's electronic medical record over a communications network responsive to the step of receiving the data entry indicating an allergic reaction to the inmate's prescribed medication.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25,

wherein the step of dispensing a unit packet of prescription medication to an inmate dispensing a 30 day supply of unit packets for the prescription medication; and

wherein the method further comprises performing the following steps responsive to the failure of the inmate to consume at least one unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication :

subsequently locating the at least one unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication;

returning the at least one unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication, when determined to be suitable for future use, to a central pharmacy for reclamation; and

adjusting the inventory of pharmaceuticals accordingly.

27. (Currently amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a machine readable code of program instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps of monitoring pharmaceutical inventory and monitoring of dispensation of prescribed medication to prisoners inmates in correctional facilities defining inmates in conjunction with an electronic medical record containing information about an inmate to receive the prescribed medication and the inmate's medical history, the method steps of the program instructions in the machine readable code in the program storage device comprising the steps of:

performing a reviewing of the electronic medical record to include:

performing an automated review of an inmate's prescription and the inmate's electronic medical record responsive to entry of the prescription into an associated prescription system, and

displaying the inmate's electronic medical record and prescription for manual on-screen comparison by a pharmacist;

receiving an authorization to release of a prescribed medication for the inmate from the pharmacist;

providing data to print a label for the inmate's prescribed medication to place upon a unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication;

performing an automated verification that the inmate is the inmate who has been prescribed the inmate's prescribed medication prior to forming a record of dispensing the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate responsive a reading of an identification card identifying the inmate with a card swiper;

forming a dispensation record in computer memory of dispensing the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate responsive to receiving an indication that the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication was dispensed;

forming a receipt verification record in the computer memory indicating verification that the inmate received the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to receiving an indication verifying that the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication was received by the inmate;

performing one of the following administration verification steps:

forming an administration verification record in the computer memory of indicating an actual physical verification that the inmate consumed the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to receiving an indication verifying that the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication was consumed by the inmate, and

forming the administration verification record in the computer memory indicating that the inmate did not consume the unit packet of prescribed medication responsive to receiving an indication that the inmate's prescribed medication was not consumed by the inmate;-

receiving a data entry from a correctional facility pill window technician for the respective correctional facility unit indicating an allergic reaction to the inmate's prescribed medication; and

updating the inmate's electronic medical record responsive to the data entry indicating an allergic reaction to the inmate's prescribed medication.

28. (Currently amended) The program storage device of Claim 27, wherein the method steps of the program instructions in the machine readable code in the program storage device further include the steps of:

scheduling shipping of each of a plurality of unit packets for each of a plurality of different prescribed medications for each separate one of a plurality of inmates to thea respective correctional facility unit containing the plurality of inmates; and

performing an automated update of a pharmaceutical inventory record based upon receipt of the unit packets by the correctional facility unit.

29. (Previously presented) The program storage device of Claim 28, wherein the method steps of the program instructions in the machine readable code in the program storage device further include the step of:

sorting each unit packet of the plurality of unit packets for each separate one of a plurality of inmates in the correctional facility unit into a shipment in accordance with a shipping schedule for delivery of each unit packet to the correctional facility unit after prescribed medication has been labeled.

30. (Currently amended) The program storage device of Claim 28, wherein the method steps of the program instructions in the machine readable code in the program storage device further include the step of:

preventing a potential disruption of medication administration resulting from a breakdown in network communications between a computerized records computer storing the inmate's electronic medical record and thea local correctional facility unit computer located remotely therefrom by caching in memory of the correctional facility unit computer at least portions of the electronic medical record for each inmate scheduled to receive prescribed medicines.

31. (Previously presented) The program storage device of Claim 28, wherein the method steps of the program instructions in the machine readable code in the program storage device further include the step of:

preventing a potential disruption of medication delivery resulting from a breakdown in network communications between a pharmacy computer and a remote computerized records computer storing electronic medical records and located remotely therefrom by caching in memory of the pharmacy computer each electronic medical record for each inmate contained within each shipment scheduled to be shipped within a predefined time period prior to the step of reviewing the inmate's electronic medical record.

32. (Previously presented) The program storage device of Claim 28, wherein the method steps of the program instructions in the machine readable code in the program storage device further include the step of:

preventing a potential disruption of medication delivery resulting from a breakdown in network communications between a pharmacy computer and a remote computerized records computer storing electronic medical records and located remotely therefrom by caching in memory of the pharmacy computer data related to each label to be printed for each shipment scheduled to be shipped within a predefined time period prior to printing the label.

33. (Currently amended) A computerized system for monitoring of pharmaceutical inventory and dispensation of medication to ~~inmates~~ prisoners in correctional facilities defining inmates in conjunction with an electronic medical record stored in a computer having a computer memory, the electronic medication record containing information about an inmate to receive prescribed medication and the inmate's medical history, the system comprising:

a pharmacy database stored in the computer memory for maintaining records related to a pharmaceutical inventory for correctional facilities and for maintaining a drug formulary of approved medication;

a pharmacist review workstation configured to enable a pharmacist to simultaneously review the inmate's electronic medical record and an inmate's prescription in computer memory and upon review of the inmate's prescription, approve the prescription;

a pharmacist technician workstation positioned remote from a correctional facility housing the inmate, and configured to enable pharmacist technicians to print labels with the printer for application to the inmate's prescribed medication upon command prior to delivery to the correctional facility;

a medication dispensation workstation positioned at the correctional facility and configured to enable the prescribed medication to be dispensed to an inmate and to enable a medication compliance history to be recorded in computer memory, the recording of the inmate's compliance history to include:

> performing an automated verification that the inmate is the inmate who has been prescribed the inmate's prescribed medication prior to forming a record of dispensing a unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate responsive to a reading of an identification card for the inmate with a card swiper,

forming a record of dispensing the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate in computer memory responsive to a pharmacy technician indicating the dispensing of the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate,

forming a receipt verification record in computer memory indicating verification that the inmate received the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to a pharmacy technician verifying receipt by the inmate, and

performing one of the following administration verification steps:

forming an administration verification record in computer memory indicating an actual physical verification that the inmate consumed the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to the pharmacy technician verifying consumption by the inmate, and

forming the administration verification record in computer memory indicating that the inmate did not consume the unit packet of prescribed medication when so occurring,

receiving a data entry from a correctional facility pill window technician for the correctional facility unit indicating an allergic reaction to the inmate's prescribed medication, and

initiating an update of the inmate's electronic medical record over a communications network responsive to the data entry indicating an allergic reaction to the inmate's prescribed medication; and

thea communications network electronically interconnecting the electronic medical record database, the pharmacy database, the pharmacist review workstation, the pharmacist technician workstation, the medication dispensation workstation, a printer, and the computer memory storing the electronic medical records to communicate with each other.

34. (Withdrawn) A computerized system for monitoring pharmaceutical inventory in correctional facilities in conjunction with an electronic medical record containing information about an inmate to received prescribed medication and the inmate's medical information including laboratory work results and medical checkup data, the system having a computerized records computer storing electronic medical records in an electronic medical record database, a printer, and further comprising:

a pharmacy database stored in computer memory for maintaining records related to a pharmaceutical inventory for correctional facility units and for maintaining a drug formulary of approved medication for a correctional facility unit;

a pharmacist review workstation configured to access a pharmacy server to enable a pharmacist to simultaneously review the inmate's medical information including laboratory work results and medical checkup data and an inmate's prescription order in the computer memory and upon review of the inmate's prescription order, approve the prescription;

the pharmacy server in communication with the pharmacy database and configured to prevent a potential disruption of medication delivery resulting from a breakdown in network communications between the pharmacy server and the computerized records computer storing electronic medical records located remotely therefrom by caching in the pharmacy database each electronic medical record for each inmate contained within each prescribed medication shipment of a plurality of prescribed medication shipments scheduled to be shipped within a predefined time period prior to a pharmacist reviewing the respective inmate's electronic medical record and prescription order;

a pharmacist technician workstation configured to access the pharmacy server to enable pharmacist technicians to print labels with the printer for application to the inmate's prescribed medication upon command prior to shipment to the correctional facility; and

a communications network electronically interconnecting the electronic medical record database, the pharmacy database, the pharmacist review workstation, the pharmacist technician workstation, the printer, and the computer memory to communicate with each other.

35. (Currently amended) A computerized system for monitoring dispensation of medication to prisoners~~inmates~~ in correctional facilities of a prison system defining inmates in conjunction with an electronic medical record containing information about an inmate to receive prescribed medication and the inmate's medical history, the system comprising:

a medication dispensation workstation positioned at a correctional facility and configured to enable the inmate's prescribed medication to be dispensed to the inmate and to enable a medication compliance history to be recorded in computer memory, the recording of the inmate's compliance history, to include:

performing an automated verification that the inmate is the inmate who has been prescribed the inmate's prescribed medication prior to forming a record of dispensing a unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate responsive to a card swiper reading of an identification card of the inmate,

forming a record of dispensing the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate in the computer memory responsive to a pharmacy technician indicating the dispensing of the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate,

forming a receipt verification record in the computer memory indicating verification that the inmate received the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to a pharmacy technician verifying receipt by the inmate, and

performing one of the following administration verification operations:

forming an administration verification record in the computer memory indicating an actual physical verification by a human observer that the inmate consumed the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to the pharmacy technician verifying consumption by the inmate, and

forming the administration verification record in the computer memory indicating that the inmate did not consume the unit packet of prescribed medication when so occurring,

receiving a data entry from a correctional facility pill window technician for the respective correctional facility unit indicating an allergic reaction to the inmate's prescribed medication, and

initiating an update of the inmate's electronic medical record over a communications network responsive to the data entry indicating an allergic reaction to the inmate's prescribed medication.

36. (Previously presented) The computerized system for monitoring dispensation of medication according to claim 35, further comprising:

a communications network to enable an electronic medical record computer and the medication dispensation workstation to communicate with each other;

a pharmacy database for maintaining inmate electronic medical records and records related to a pharmaceutical inventory for the correctional facility and for maintaining a drug formulary of approved medication for the correctional facility; and wherein

the medication dispensation workstation is further configured to display a medical compliance or medical administration record for the inmate.